

REMARKS

Claims 37-40, 42-48 and 50-53 are pending in the present application. In the Office Action dated September 11, 2003, the Examiner rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,612,403 to Korovin, *et al.* ("Korovin"). The Examiner further objected to claims 38-40 and 42-47 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 48 and 50-53 are allowed.

As a preliminary matter, applicant notes that certain prior art references submitted by the applicant have not been initialed by the Examiner as required. Specifically, PTO-1449 forms submitted in connection with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on July 20, 2001, August 15, 2001 and February 21, 2003, which were returned to applicant with the Office Action dated April 11, 2003, failed to show that the foreign prior art disclosed therein was properly initialed. Applicant requests the Examiner to initial the prior art references on the PTO-1449 forms and kindly return the completed forms to the undersigned attorney.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Grant for his careful review of the present application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Applicant is amending claims in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, and respectfully asserts that the present amendments are made to comply with a requirement of form as expressly set forth in the previous Office Action. Applicant also respectfully asserts that the present amendments are made solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, applicant reserves the right to present any of the claims in the present application, in non-amended form, in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Claim 37 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 38. Claim 38 is therefore now in allowable form. Claims depending from amended claim 37 are also allowable based upon the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations present in the dependent claims.

Claims 60-127 are new. Claim 60 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claims 38 and 39. Claims 61-66 incorporate the subject matter of claims 40, 42-47. Claim 67 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claims 38 and 40. Claims 68-73 incorporate the subject matter of claims 39, 42-47. Claim 74 is former claim 37 that includes the limitation of dependent claim 42. Claims 75-82 incorporate the subject matter of

claims 38, 39, 40 and 43-47. Claim 83 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claim 43. Claims 84-91 incorporate the subject matter of claims 38, 39, 40, 42 and 44-47. Claim 92 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claim 44. Claims 93-100 incorporate the subject matter of claims 39, 40, 42, 43, 45-47. Claim 101 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claim 45. Claims 102-109 incorporate the subject matter of claims 38, 39, 40, 42-44, 46, 47. Claim 110 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claim 46. Claims 111-118 incorporate the subject matter of claims 38, 39, 40, 42-45 and 47. Finally, claim 119 is former claim 37 that includes the limitations of dependent claim 47. Claims 120-127 incorporate the subject matter of claims 38, 39, 40, 42-46.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)

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